taken or is proposed to be taken in this regard and if not, what is the reaction of Government with regard to the request made by the voluntary organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Consulting Political Groups in Jammu and Kashmir for Electoral Process

2760. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 728 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th March, 1995 and state;

(a) what is the cut-off date for updating the electoral rolls in the Jammu and Kashmir State; whether those who were forced to leave their homes and hearths in the State under pressure of terrorism in recent years have been consulted;

(b) what steps are being taken to ensure that they (refugees in thier own country) are able to exercise their franchise; and

(c) what are the social and political groups consulted in the process;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) As per the Schedule prescribed by the Election Commission, the final electoral rolls which are being prepared with reference to 1-1-95 as the qualifying date, will be published on 29-3-1995. The Election Commission had given specific directions to the State Government to make special arrangements for publication of electoral rolls and for receipt and disposal of claims from the migrants who have been living temporarily in various parts of the State and action has been taken accordingly. It is expected that the Election Commission would give appropriate directions, as may be necessary, to ensure that the migrants from the State of Jammu & Kashmir are able to exercise their franchise freely. The concerned persons, including representatives of the migrants were also consulted in the process.

Demand for the Constitution of an Autonomous Hill Council for Ladakh

2761. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leaders of several Ladakhi religious groups have decided recently to boycott all steps aimed at initiating the political process in Jammu and Kashmir to hold Assembly elections till the Centre meets their demand for constitution of an Autonomous Hill Council for Ladakh as per the report which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 7th March, 1995 captioned "Ladakhis decide not to cooperate with Centre";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the newspaper report referred to in the Question and its contents. Following a series of discussions at the Government level with representatives of State Government of Jammu & Kashmir and the Ladakh region, regarding a possible structure and frame-work for an Autonomous Hill Council for the Ladakh Region, the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir has sent a proposal for legislation to constitute such a Council. The proposal is under the active consideration of Government.